



# Recycle This! Newsletter

Newsletter of the Maine State Planning Office, Waste Management & Recycling Program \* March 2004

## Legislative Update



Here are some of the bills related to solid waste that were presented before the Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources. For specifics on the bills, visit the Legislature's web site, [www.maine.gov/portal/government/legislature.html#bills](http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/legislature.html#bills). Here is a brief overview:

**LD 1806, "An Act To Provide for the Safe Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste"**, as drafted, directed counties to select and provide a facility within each county for the management of HHW. The bill was amended by the committee to remove the directive but requires the State Planning Office to give preference to regional efforts in funding HHW management activities.

### HHW Household Hazardous Waste

#### EXAMPLES:

Antifreeze Paint  
Pesticides Oil  
Cleaners Gasoline

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) submitted its report pursuant to the provisions of P&SL 2003 Chapter 30, "An Act to Fund Municipal Collection of Household Hazardous Waste". The report included the Department's study regarding "ongoing sources of funding for municipal collection of hazardous waste". The Committee received the report but has taken no action on the funding options presented.

**LD 1790, An Act to Reduce Contamination of Breast Milk and the Environment from the Release of Brominated Chemical in Consumer Products.** This bill would require disclosure of identified chemicals and would place a restriction on the sale and use of products containing Brominated Flame Retardants. As of the date of writing this article, the Committee has not taken final action on this bill.

*Continued on Page Two*

## The West Old Town Landfill

The State of Maine, Georgia Pacific, Casella Waste Systems closed on the landfill transfer, on February 5, 2004. Title to the West Old Town Landfill was transferred to the state of Maine at no cost. At the same time, the state entered into an agreement that authorizes Casella Waste Systems to operate the landfill. Casella will pay \$26 million for the service agreement. The funds will allow Georgia-Pacific (the former landfill owner) to purchase a biomass boiler that will help lower its energy costs; the biggest obstacle to the mill's economic viability.

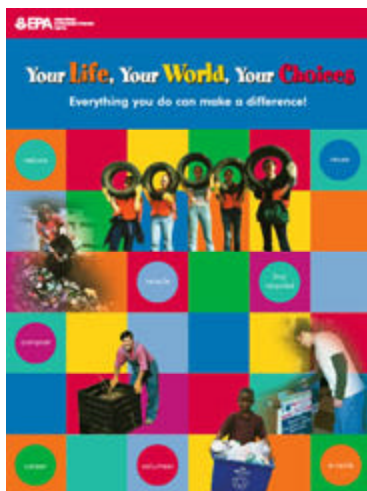


**The Old Town Landfill as it is today.**

There will be no immediate changes at the landfill, pending the approval of a licensing amendment application by the Department of Environmental Protection. The transaction fulfills a directive of the Maine Legislature, which resolved last spring that the state of Maine purchase the West Old Town Landfill and select an operator to run the facility.

The landfill will provide Maine with long-term secure landfill disposal capacity at stable, predictable pricing and will greatly expand recycling opportunities for construction and demolition debris, glass, and electronic products. In addition to accomplishing these important solid waste management goals, the transaction will strengthen the Old Town mill's competitiveness and help maintain 450 mill jobs.

## Your Life, Your World, Your Choices; Everything you do makes a difference!



**EPA's Recycling  
Education Packet**

Maine's Recycling Education Kits have been circulating for about a year. Just recently it was suggested that it might be appropriate to add a collection of EPA materials to the kit. In looking into the EPA, it not only became a possible consideration but also a reminder of the valuable resources which are now available to teachers and students on the Internet.

"Your Life, Your World, Your Choices; everything you do can make a difference!" is the title of the latest educational packet from EPA. Within the packet are brochures, fact sheets, a poster, booklets, and a CD of information from their web site. A form for ordering the kit or any of the seven individual pieces is included in each folder. Orders can be placed by calling 1-800-490-9198. The kit carries the document number EPA530-E-03-001.

Considering that computers are in Maine's schools, a feature for our students is a visit to "Recycle City" on the CD or at [www.epa.gov/recyclecity](http://www.epa.gov/recyclecity). The map of the fictitious community gives an overview to directions for the best ways to reduce, reuse, recycle, and respond. By clicking on each of the four corners of the map, the visitor is guided into a different neighborhood. While not exhaustive, it still is a wonderful exercise of pairing the public with the computer for many positive messages about recycling.

When you go online to [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov), it is worth it to take a moment to truly visit the web site. In looking at the educational resources, information and resources are grouped by three age and grade levels. Creative illustrations make the site as inviting as it is informative for the visitor. While the links may seem confusing at times, they also contribute to the thoroughness of its coverage. We invite you to visit the site and suggest that others take advantage of this educational tool.

## Earth Day – 2004

April 22<sup>nd</sup> of each year is Earth Day.

This will mark the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the observance of Earth Day, which was started officially in 1970.

Credit is given to former United States Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisconsin) for the first Earth Day in this Country. Earth Day has become an annual national event to learn about ecology and what we can do to reduce environmental harm.



To those working with recycling, Earth Day can be viewed as a spring day supporting the awareness of the recycling effort. The "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" message of Maine Recycles Week – November 8 to 15 – should be as strong in the spring, as it is in the fall.

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### Legislative Update (Continued from Page One)

**LD 1892, "An Act To Protect Public Health and the Environment by Providing for a System of Shared Responsibility for the Safe Collection and Recycling of Electronic Waste"**, which came out

of the stakeholder effort convened by the Department of Environmental Protection, as directed by PL 2003 Chapter 150. This law, passed in 2003, bans the disposal of Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs) beginning on January 1 2006 and required the Department to develop a plan for collection and recycling of CRTs.

**LD 1901, "Collection and Recovery of Mercury-added Thermostats"**, directs manufacturers of Mercury-added Thermostats to establish and maintain 100 collection sites in Maine for these products. The bill follows from a report delivered to the Committee in February by the DEP. Both of these bills had just been printed at the time of this newsletter, with the public hearings scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup>. The reader is directed to the Legislature's web site in order to read the bills in their entirety.



# This is the Year To Compost!

It is estimated that 25% of an average household's waste is kitchen scraps and yard trimmings. Any effort to reduce the waste stream at the source must be considered valuable. Again this year, in cooperation with the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA), the State Planning Office (SPO) is offering "The Earth Machine" backyard compost bins at reduced costs to Maine communities and their residents. Last year's sale of compost bins was so successful that arrangements had to be made to repeat the program this year.



Once registered, one needs only to promote the use and sales locally. Upon registering to participate, one of "The Earth Machine" compost bins



will be sent to assist with sales! Any orders may be accepted only through May 22, 2004. Completed tracking forms and checks made out to the "Northeast Resource Recovery Association" must then be returned to Rhonda at the SPO. Delivery of compost bins is scheduled for the week of June 21, 2004.

In many places, the compost bins are being offered in conjunction with special programs on home composting. The bins are made of lightweight plastic and are staked to the ground. Waste materials are fed in the top and the finished material is taken out through a hatch on the side near the bottom. If materials are added properly, there are enough holes on the sides to provide ventilation to allow the composting process to take place without the normal hassle of constant management of the pile. Residents receiving bins also get an excellent "how to" guide with each compost bin. Information about the "Earth Machine" compost bins is available from their web site, [www.earthmachine.com](http://www.earthmachine.com).

Through local sales opportunities by municipalities, community groups, or service organizations (one lead group per community), the "Earth Machine" backyard compost bins can be provided to homeowners at a negotiated low price of \$31.50 (tax included) apiece (retail value \$80)! Last year the sale of the bins was used as a fund raising opportunity and the bins sold for \$36.50 (tax included)! Orders must be made in exact multiples of 20 (i.e., 20, 40, 60, etc.). To participate, the group or municipality must register with the State Planning Office. To register, contact Rhonda Cartlidge of the Waste Management & Recycling Program at SPO (207/287-8934) or 1-800 662-4545 for a Participation Packet or visit [www.recyclemaine.com/bin](http://www.recyclemaine.com/bin).

## Food Waste Composting Symposium: Changing Perceptions and Building Partnerships

**March 18th, 2004  
Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, Maine**

The State Planning Office, the Waste Management & Recycling Program, and the Maine DEP Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, have planned a one day Organics Recycling symposium for commercial composters, farmers, and large food waste producers.

Look for a full report in the next  
**Recycle This! Newsletter**  
For more information consult:  
[www.recyclemaine.com/food](http://www.recyclemaine.com/food)



# Regional Programs Bring Recycling to the Entire State

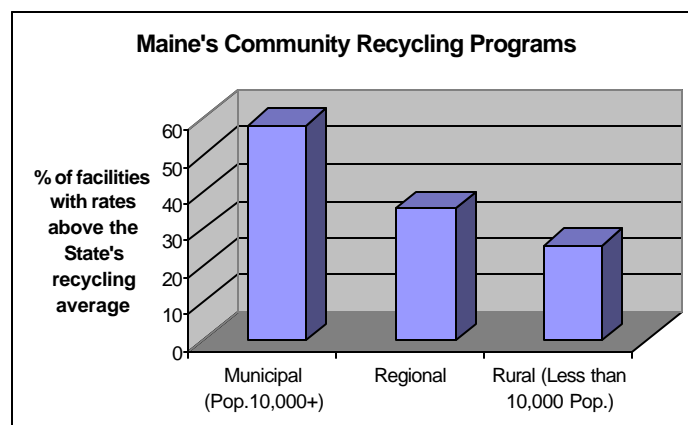
Recycling in the State of Maine is ahead of the times when it comes to regional cooperation. While other public services only now look to the benefits of tackling problems with their neighbors, Maine's communities have banded together for more than a decade in many natural regions to look at their issues involving trash disposal. As they seek to continue to cooperate with one another, the joined efforts of approaching newer waste problems continue to be wrestled with by these regions and even new partnerships.



**Mid-Maine Recycling Center**  
(Cambridge, Corinna, Dexter, Exeter, Ripley, St. Albans)

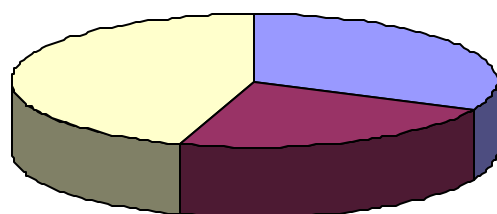
There are over 50 regions which support the recycling efforts of almost 300 of our communities. These regions are not limited to rural areas; however by nature they generally work closely with a service area or commercial site, such as found in Augusta, Farmington, and Presque Isle. Regions can be defined by containing as few as two communities or as many as 31. In the organization of the management of our resources, they have found their niche by filling the gaps between the larger municipalities and rural efforts. In the first decade of recycling in Maine, facilities generally been successful in reaching more than 95 percent of our population.

There are only 17 communities in Maine with more than 10,000 population; however they are responsible for recycling 82,531 tons of the 257,785 tons recycled in Maine in 2002. It has always been theorized that more strategies and resources are available to the more populated areas, and 58% of these communities can be identified as having recycling rates above the statewide average. Regional facilities have 36% of their facilities above the statewide average. Those communities of less than 10,000 population, defined as rural by the US Department of Agriculture, are not a part of a regional effort and 25% of these recycle above average.



The State of Maine is now examining regional cooperation in response to many issues; however recycling has been demonstrating successes from such cooperation for more than a decade. The State's recycling rate has consistently hovered in the 40% range, which is positive in the minds of all of the people involved in recycling. As the municipal recycling figures are released, there is justifiable pride within each member of the Industry for their own contribution, however the real measure is as to how much we, as a State, has improved.

## Maine Regional Recycling



■ Municipal (Pop. 10,000+) ■ Regional □ Rural (Less than 10,000 Pop.)



**Sandy River Recycling Facility**

# Maine Recycling Regions

Aroostook Valley (1,871)	Mars Hill Area (1,484)
Baileyville Region (3,697)	Medway Region (1,775)
Bethel Region (3,003)	Mid-Coast (11,890)
Blue Hill Region (6,605)	Mid-Maine (9,812)
Boothbay Region (7,066)	Monmouth Region (4,850)
Bristol Region (3,541)	Monson Region (749)
Brownville Area (1,259)	Nobleboro Region (8,585)
Buckfield Region (2,577)	North Oxford Region (13,965)
Bucksport Region (7,042)	Northern Aroostook Region (10,794)
Burlington-Lowell Region (642)	Northern Katahdin Valley (4,340)
Caratunk Region (190)	Norway Paris (9,404)
Central Penobscot (5,094)	Old Town Region (11,756)
Cherryfield Region (1,235)	Oxford Region (25,166)
Clinton Region (12,470)	Phillips Region (1,667)
Coastal Recycling (8,803)	Pittsfield Region (9,811)
Crossroads Region (16,605)	Pleasant River (4,913)
Dover-Foxcroft Region (6,539)	Presque Isle Region (14,630)
Ellsworth Area (6,594)	Rangeley Region (1,302)
EMR (4,865)	Readfield Region (3,472)
Eustis Region (890)	Regional Waste Systems (258,581)
Freeport Region (15,882)	Sandy River Recycling (26,373)
Greenville (1,897)	Sherman Region (1,828)
Harmony Region (1,213)	South Aroostook Region (11,144)
Hatch Hill Region (41,785)	Thomaston Region (6,765)
Haynesville (1,053)	Tri-Community (24,306)
Jackman Region (1,321)	Tri-County (7,481)
Jay Region (12,142)	Union River (773)
Kennebec Valley Region (4,727)	Unity Area Recycling (8,551)
Kingfield Region (2,507)	Upper St. John Valley (859)
Lewiston Region (81,771)	Waldoboro Region (7,442)
Lincoln County (33,048)	Waterford Stoneham (1,710)
Lovell Region (35,690)	Waterville (23,348)
Machias Region (3,360)	Wilton Area (4,193)
Marion Region (7,713)	Wiscasset Region (5,023)

## Region (Population served)

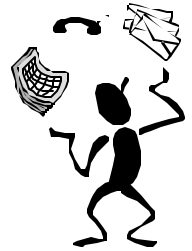
Source: Municipal Recycling Programs in Maine

January 2004

State Planning Office; Waste Management & Recycling Program

**Maine State Planning Office  
Waste Management & Recycling Program  
38 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0038  
1-800-662-4545 or 207-287-8050  
[www.recyclemaine.com](http://www.recyclemaine.com)**

## **Mark Your Calendar!**



### **Food Waste Symposium: Changing Perceptions and Building Partnerships**

March 18, 2004 8:00 am to 4:30 pm - Thorne Hall, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME

For more information, contact Tom Miragliuolo (207)287-9074 or visit [www.recyclemaine.com/food](http://www.recyclemaine.com/food)

### **Maine Resource Recovery Association Conference**

April 5-6, 2004 8:00 am - 4:30 pm - Samoset Resort, Rockport, Maine

For more information, contact: John Albertini, 207-942-6772, [mr.ra.john@verizon.com](mailto:mr.ra.john@verizon.com)

### **Earth Day**

April 22nd is Earth Day! Celebrate recycling in your community! For more information, contact: Bruce White 207-287-8053 [Bruce.White@maine.gov](mailto:Bruce.White@maine.gov)

### **Northeast Resource Recovery Association 23rd Annual Recycling Conference & Exposition**

June 7-8, 2004, Waterville Valley Resort, Waterville Valley, NH

For more information, contact Northeast Resource Recovery Assoc. (603)798-5777,  
[www.recyclewithus.org](http://www.recyclewithus.org)